



Iowa Outdoors

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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1. Input Asked on Shape of Conservation Programs
2. Plant Native Trees and Shrub for Best Results
3. Iowa DNR Offers Competitive Tree Planting and Maintenance Grant
4. Iowa Fishing Report

16 Public Meetings Set for REAP

INPUT ASKED ON SHAPE OF CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Des Moines -- Iowans will have the chance to shape the future of the state's premiere outdoor recreation and conservation funding program – Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) – at 16 public meetings in February and March.

The Resource Enhancement and Protection Program, has a 17-year, \$180 million funding history for Iowa's parks, water quality, habitat improvements, roadside prairies, historical development and conservation education. In recent years, state gaming revenues have funded REAP at \$11.5 million per year, according to Jeff Vonk, DNR director.

“Any Iowan who has even the slightest interest in natural resources and outdoor recreation should consider attending one of these REAP meetings,” said Vonk. “You will find it highly interesting and well worth your time as you participate to make REAP better and stronger for your local part of the state. REAP works because it is a local program that matches local needs with helpful revenue.”

“REAP's investment in Iowa has improved the quality of life through outdoor recreation, diverse landscapes and environmental health,” he said. “The investment also yields high economic returns; it is the heart of local conservation.”

Coordinator of the REAP program Ross Harrison explained that those attending the REAP assemblies will be able to work together to set future directions and list their favorite local projects. They will also elect delegates to the REAP Congress in Des Moines later in July. That congress will vote on priorities to send to the Governor and Legislature.

All REAP public meetings will run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and there is no need for advance reservations.

For more information, contact: Ross Harrison, DNR at 515-281-5973, or by e-mail at ross.harrison@dnr.state.ia.us

2006 REAP Assemblies

All meetings are scheduled for 7 - 9 PM.

REGION	CITY	LOCATION	DATE	COUNTIES IN REGION
8	Maquoketa	Hurstville Interpretive Center	Feb. 2	Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson
10	Cedar Rapids	Wickiup Outdoor Learning Center	Feb. 7	Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Washington
1	Decorah	Luther College, Olin Bldg. Auditorium	Feb 9	Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, Winneshiek
7	Cedar Falls	Hartman Reserve Nature Center	Feb. 14	Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw, Grundy
14	Afton	Three-Mile Lake Lodge	Feb. 16	Adair, Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Madison, Ringgold, Taylor, Union
11	Des Moines	Jester Park Lodge	Feb 21	Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Marion, Polk, Story, Warren
12	Carroll	Swan Lake State Park – Conservation Center	Feb. 23	Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, Sac
13 & 17	Council Bluffs	Bass Pro Shop, Council Bluffs	Feb. 28	Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Montgomery, Page, Shelby, Mills, Pottawattamie
15	Ottumwa	Bennett Regional Training Center Indian Hills Community College Room 100	March 2	Appanoose, Davis, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lucas, Mahaska, Monroe, Van Buren, Wapello, Wayne
9	Muscatine	New Learning Center	March 7	Muscatine, Scott
4	Sioux City	Dorothy Pecaute Nature Center, Stone State Park	March 9	Cherokee, Ida, Monona, Plymouth, Woodbury
3	Everly	Community Center	March 14	Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Sioux
5	Fort Dodge	Bob Heuen Shelter, Kennedy Park	March 16	Calhoun, Hamilton, Humboldt, Pocahontas, Webster, Wright
2	Mason City	Lime Creek Nature Center	March 23	Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Kossuth, Mitchell, Winnebago, Worth
16	Burlington	Starr's Cave	March 28	Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Louisa

6	Marshalltown	Grimes Farm and Conservation Center	March 30	Hardin, Marshall, Poweshiek, Tama

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Plant Native Trees and Shrub for Best Results

AMES – After deciding to plant trees and shrubs this spring, the next question is which kind. With Iowa’s extremes in climate, the best choice is to go native. Using native trees and shrubs from an Iowa grown nursery is the best choice for the long haul.

“Native trees and shrubs are better adapted to Iowa’s extremes in weather and to our planting sites, providing superior native wildlife habitat. Native trees and shrubs have adapted to insect and disease issues over time, and are less likely to be stressed than non-native plants during extreme droughts. Native trees are also a link to Iowa’s heritage,” said John Walkowiak, Forestry Bureau Chief with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Prior to settlement, Iowa contained 6.7 million acres of forest with a vast mixture of native oaks, hickories, maples and others. Today, with 2.7 million acres of forestland, Iowans can still take pride in growing some of the world’s finest hardwoods such as the black walnut, oak, ash, cottonwood, sycamore and silver maple, Walkowiak said.

“While native seedling plantings offer the best chance for success, you should pick and choose species according to your land management objectives and planting site,” he said.

The State Forest Nursery in Ames offers hardy, native trees and shrubs to landowners at affordable costs. The State Nursery buys native seeds each year from local Iowa seed collectors to ensure the planting stock will withstand Iowa’s land and weather conditions. By providing a reliable source of suitable planting stock in large quantities, the State Forest Nursery has available more than 3 million bare root seedlings (8 to 24 inches tall) per year for sale to private landowners for reforestation, soil erosion control and wildlife habitat. Call 800-865-2477 or visit www.iowatreeplanting.com for more information.

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IOWA DNR OFFERS COMPETITIVE TREE-PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE GRANT

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) forestry bureau will be providing about \$25,000 of USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry funds to sponsor a matching grant for tree planting, tree maintenance and improvement projects in Iowa communities.

The Community Improvement through Healthy Trees grant will award between \$500 and \$1,500 in matching funds to community organizations and governments for use in purchasing and planting trees on publicly-owned property, and conducting tree maintenance projects. Grant recipients will be required to document project expenditures equal to or exceeding the amount of the grant. The ranking criteria for selecting grant recipients will emphasize volunteer involvement, outreach efforts in low to moderate-income neighborhoods and communities, and projects taking place in parks, schools, and other high-use areas. Tree planting projects will be completed by June 30, and maintenance projects will be completed by September 1.

Applications can be downloaded from www.iowadnr.com/forestry/ and then "Community and Yard Trees." Applications are due February 21. Grant applicants will be notified of the results of the selection process in March. For more information or to request a paper copy of the application, please contact Matt Brewer, forestry volunteer coordinator (515-242-6892, Matt.Brewer@dnr.state.ia.us) or Randy Cook, urban forester (515-281-5600, Randy.Cook@dnr.state.ia.us).

For more information, please contact Matt Brewer at 515-242-6892 or Randy Cook at 515-281-5600.

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Iowa Fishing Report

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For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

Northwest

Ice conditions throughout north central Iowa is variable with most lakes having between 6 and 12 inches of ice. The average depth is 8 inches. Anglers are traveling by foot, with some using snowmobiles or 4 wheelers. No vehicle traffic has been occurring on area lakes.

Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo): Yellow bass fishing has been good in the morning hours and late afternoon. Fish are being caught with small minnows under a bobber or jigging spoons tipped with a minnow head or cut bait. Best action has been west of the

Island, Billy's Reef, and State Dock off the north shore. Most fish are being caught in 8 to 14 feet of water. Walleye fishing has been slow. Lots of small fish are being caught, but only an occasional keeper, 14 inches minimum.

Rice Lake (Winnebago): Yellow perch fishing has been fair to good. Perch are being caught on minnows fished under a bobber in 3 to 6 feet of water. A few northern pike are also being taken.

Silver Lake (Worth): Yellow perch are being caught on the north shore near the campground on small minnows. Some sorting is required.

Indian Lake (Hancock): Bluegills are hitting during the early morning and late afternoon. Fish the outside edge of the weed line in 8 to 14 feet of water. Best baits are small jigs with insect larvae.

Lake Cornelia (Wright): Yellow perch have been biting off the north shore in 10 to 16 feet of water. Fish are being caught on jigging spoons tipped with minnow head or teardrop and insect larvae.

Spirit Lake (Dickinson): Ice conditions are fair with most of the lake with 10 to 14 inches. Walleye fishing is fair with a few nice fish being caught in the evenings using jigging minnow style baits tipped with minnow heads. Anglers are concentrating off the deep bar between Cottonwood and Big Stony Point. Perch fishing has been sporadic with nice size fish being caught but some searching required. Anglers are have the most success on the south end, Buffalo Run and Crandall's Beach. A small spoon tipped with wigglers, wax worms or minnow heads all work effectively. Experiment to find what the fish want. A few crappies are being caught in Anglers Bay in the standing weeds.

West Okoboji (Dickinson): Walleye fishing has slowed. There is open water in the middle of the lake and many of the traditional walleye spots are unsafe. Smiths Bay and Emerson Bay are still producing a few fish in the evening along the weed line. Bluegills are being caught in Emerson Bay and a few at the north end. Small teardrops tipped with wax worms. Experiment with jigging style and color of baits. Perch are being caught in Hayward's, Miller's and Emerson Bays, but most fish are small.

Silver Lake (Dickinson): Anglers are catching a few walleyes around the island in the afternoon.

Silver Lake (Palo Alto) Anglers are still catching a few 8 to 12-inch perch.

Trumbull Lake (Clay): Anglers are picking some perch, including a few jumbos, using minnows.

Willow Creek (Osceola): Bluegills are being caught among the trees. Willow Creek is a great place to take the kids for some action.

Dog Creek (O'Brien): Anglers are catching perch, crappies and bluegills off the swimming beach, with activity picking up before dark.

Crawford Creek (Ida): Crawford Creek has 5 inches of ice so use caution. Bluegills and crappies are biting, with the crappie bite picking up after dark.

For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.

Northeast

The **Guttenberg** and **Lynxville**, Wis., tailwaters are in open water condition and have fair fishing for sauger. The nice weather has caused fishing pressure to be fairly

heavy. Most anglers are using 3-ways with a minnow or chartruse jigs and twisters tipped with a minnow.

Ice conditions are variable on the Mississippi River. It is an uneven ice year with many places having poor ice conditions. However small pockets of solid ice does exist, but mostly north of Guttenberg. All anglers must use extreme caution and never cross a flowing slough or any ice that looks unsafe.

Ice fishing in **Pools 12 to 15** is not recommended. Open water fishing is occurring. Anglers are reminded the areas below the locks and dams are closed to fishing through March 15. No fishing is permitted in these areas.

For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.

Southeast

Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19: Fishing on the Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19 has been fair to good. At the gauging station on **Pool 16** (near Muscatine) the water temperature is 36 degrees and the river pool stage is 11.29 feet and is expected to remain stable over the next several days. The Mississippi River and backwaters are open and free of ice on Pools 16 to 19.

Pools 16 to 19: Fishing has been fair for walleye and sauger in the tail waters of **Lock and Dam 16 to 19**. Anglers report the best success at tailwater 15 (**Davenport**), tail water 16 (**Muscatine**) and tail water 17 (**New Boston**). Anglers are using jigs with twister tails or hair jigs, some anglers have success using sonars, cicadas, and jigging rapalas tipped with a minnow head. With the colder water, anglers should slow down their presentation of baits and, when using jigs, use as small of jig as possible but still be able to feel the bottom. Small jigs may be difficult to use in heavy current areas. Try using ¼ ounce, ½ ounce and ¾ ounce jigs tipped with a minnow. If you're missing fish, try adding a stinger hook.

Lake Macbride (Johnson): Ice conditions are variable throughout the lake. Anglers continue to fish the shady, protected areas with some success on smaller bluegills.

Pleasant Creek (Linn): Ice conditions are variable. Some anglers continue to fish, but ice thickness and fish catches have not been reported.

Central Lake (Jones): Ice thickness of 6 to 7 inches with slow and steady bluegill catches are being reported.

Union Grove (Tama): Ice conditions are variable, but some anglers continue to fish and catch some smaller crappies. Anglers should be warned that the aeration system is now turned on down towards the dam.

For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.

Southwest

Most lakes in southwest Iowa have no ice. Lakes in the region that do have ice should be considered unsafe.

Des Moines River: Walleye have been reported hitting below the dam at Saylorsville and downstream to the Sycamore Access during the nice weather. Tackle has

varied, but suggestions include jigging spoons and similar 'winter' type fishing lures. Some activity has been reported below Scott Street Dam and the dam at Red Rock.

For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.